

In the Drawings:

Kindly accept the attached amended drawings. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the thorough review of the application by the Examiner.
Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. No new issues are raised by the amendments.

Claim 2 has been amended to more clearly indicate "a first and a second pulley which each are connected with a complementary set of hooks, wherein both complementary hook sets are adjacent, are overlapping after projection".

Figure 3 shows that the pulleys are overlapping after projection. In Figure 3, two first pulleys are drawn in cross-section, each guiding in their pulley wheel a pulley cord, in which each cord is connected with the hooks of the complementary set of hooks. Between each of these first pulleys at both sides of the pulleys is a cord that extends around the pulley wheel of the lower second pulley. (See Figure 2). This cord is in turn is attached with its ends to the hooks of the complementary set of hooks, which is situated between the two first mentioned complementary set of hooks, through which the first and second pulley are overlapping in projection while the respective complementary sets of hooks to which the cords, which are extending around the respective pulleys, are connected and are adjacent.

Claim 3 has been amended to include reference distances.

Claim 4 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner for clarification.

Claim 8 has been amended to include a reference numeral.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

The drawings have been amended.

Kindly accept the attached amended drawings. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

An indication of projection direction on a horizontal plane has been added to Figure 2.

Indications of distance have been added to Figure 3. The distance (Y) between the hooks of two adjacent sets of hooks equals the distance between two cords that each are attached with the hooks of a complementary set of hooks. The distance (Y1) is half the width of a first pulley out of the first row. The distance (Y2) is half the width of the second pulley out of the lower row. In the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 3, $Y = Y1 = Y2$, through which the condition that Y is smaller than the addition of $Y1 + Y2 (= 2Y)$ is automatically fulfilled.

The objections to the drawings raised by the Examiner have been addressed.

Claims 1 - 2 and 6 - 8 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Derudder (U.S. Patent No. 5,139,052).

The present invention is not anticipated by Derudder.

Claim 1 describes a shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (40), wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more sets of hooks (20a) are provided in an upper row (10), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided in a lower row (101).

Derudder describes a solution for reaching more than two positions with one complementary set of hooks. Each set of hooks includes two hooks. Reaching more than two positions is performed by attaching one of the two hooks of the complementary set of hooks to cords that each run over a different pulley, where the pulleys are mounted in two rows above each other. The reaching is also performed by providing a movable grid where to the second end of the cord, which is only connected with one hook, is attached.

Figure 2 of Derudder shows the complementary sets of hooks, where necessary, are adjacent transverse on the direction of the knives. Figure 2 also shows the necessity of two rows of pulleys above each other.

In contrast, in the Applicant's present invention, the same result is achieved by means of one complementary set of hooks and a movable grid. Reducing the number of selection elements in half makes the device more compact.

The solution of the present invention further reduces the space necessary to build a number of selection elements by keeping the dimensions of the pulleys in a device the same. For example, see Figures 2 and 3 of Derudder, for what is determining for the life span of these pulleys. Space is further reduced by reducing, preferably dividing in half, the dimensions of the pulleys. The solution is then to slant in height the pulleys that are connected with adjacent complementary sets of hooks in order to be able to build in the smaller pulleys next to each other.

The slant in height is described in the present invention as "overlapping when the pulleys are projected on a horizontal plane".

Figures 2 and 3 of Derudder can be superimposed on the present invention by the following:

(1) For Figure 3: Provide a movable grid 16 to which first additional cords 15 are attached with one end, wherein each first cord runs around the pulley wheel of the third pulley 17, which is still laying lower than the first 14 and second pulley 14bis, and with its other end is connected to the hook 11 of the first complementary set of hooks (to which already another cord 13 is attached, which is connected with both hooks of the first complementary set of hooks 11 - 12). To the same movable grid 16, second supplementary cords 15bis are attached with one end, wherein each second cord runs around the pulley wheel of a fourth pulley 17 which is still laying lower than the third pulleys 17, and with its other end is attached to the hook 11bis of a second complementary set of hooks (to which already another cord 13bis is attached with both hooks (11bis – 12bis) of the second complementary set of hooks).

(2) For Figure 2: When two combinations, as shown in Figure 2, are set up next to each in the direction of the knives, the present invention can be applied by using hooks with a smaller width and pulleys with the same dimensions by building in the second set of pulleys 1bis and 2bis on a lower level than pulleys 1 and 2, by putting pulley 3 of the first set below the second level for pulleys 1, 1bis and 2bis and by building in the pulley 3bis of the second set below the pulleys of the first set.

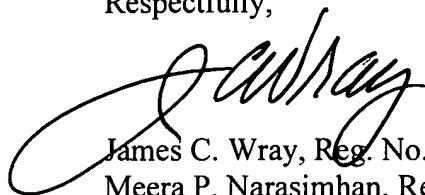
Because both effects can be superimposed, the present invention is sufficiently novel as to not be anticipated by Derudder.

Therefore, claims 1 - 2 and 6 - 8 are patentable over Derudder under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wray', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
Matthew J. Laskoski, Reg. No. 55,360
1493 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22101
Tel: (703) 442-4800
Fax: (703) 448-7397

Date: January 9, 2006